

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Original) A method for processing a floor covering comprising a facecloth layer, a backing layer, and optionally an adhesive or precoat layer, wherein the floor covering comprises at least one layer containing a polyurethane formed by reacting a polyisocyanate and a first organic polyol, which comprises:

contacting the floor covering with a second organic polyol;
heating the floor covering and second organic polyol; and
separating the facecloth layer from the backing layer.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said heating comprises increasing the temperature of the floor covering and second organic polyol sufficiently to at least partially liquefy the polyurethane.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said contacting comprises grinding floor covering into smaller pieces and mixing these pieces with said second organic polyol.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said polyurethane-containing layer is the backing layer or the adhesive or precoat layer, or both.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the polyurethane-containing layer comprises a urethane-modified bitumen.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 4, further comprising~~ A method for processing a floor covering comprising a facecloth layer, a backing layer, and optionally an adhesive or precoat layer, wherein the floor covering comprises at least one layer containing a polyurethane formed by reacting a polyisocyanate and a first organic polyol, which comprises:

_____ contacting the floor covering with a second organic polyol;

_____ heating the floor covering and second organic polyol;

_____ separating the facecloth layer from the backing layer; and

reconstituting the backing layer by contacting it with additional polyisocyanate.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first organic polyol and said second organic polyol are the same.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2, wherein said contacting comprises~~ A method for processing a floor covering comprising a facecloth layer, a backing layer, and optionally an adhesive or precoat layer, wherein the floor covering comprises at least one layer containing a polyurethane formed by reacting a polyisocyanate and a first organic polyol, which comprises:

_____ contacting the floor covering with a second organic polyol by disposing said second organic polyol onto the facecloth layer of the floor covering,

heating the floor covering and second organic polyol by increasing the
temperature of the floor covering and second organic polyol sufficiently to at least
partially liquefy the polyurethane; and
separating the facecloth layer from the backing layer by pulling said facecloth
away from said backing layer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the backing layer is contacted with a material containing additional polyisocyanate and adhered to a second facecloth, to form a second floor covering.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the backing layer comprises a urethane-modified bitumen.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said first and second organic polyols are the same.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising contacting said facecloth layer with a second backing layer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the layer containing the polyurethane is disposed between a precoat layer and the backing layer.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the backing layer comprises foamed polyurethane, and wherein the backing layer is the layer containing the polyurethane to be liquefied.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the liquefied polyurethane obtained from the backing layer is refoamed with added polyisocyanate.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, and an early notification thereof is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, or if any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned prior to the issuance of any final Office action, so that an attempt at resolving any such issues can be made.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Order Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce D. Gray
Reg. No. 35, 799

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
Suite 2800, 1100 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530
(404) 815-6218